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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, was  
3 founded on December 4, 1906, by 7 college men, respectfully  
4 known as the "Seven Jewels", on the campus of Cornell  
5 University in Ithaca, New York, becoming the first  
6 intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by and for  
7 African-Americans; and

8           WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels of the Fraternity, Henry Arthur  
9 Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George  
10 Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle,  
11 and Vertner Woodson Tandy, recognized the need for a strong  
12 bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country  
13 while stressing academic excellence among its members; the  
14 founders recognized the need to help correct the educational,  
15 economic, political, and social injustices faced by  
16 African-Americans and other people of color; and

17           WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and  
18 support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice,  
19 both educationally and socially, at Cornell University; the  
20 Jewel Founders and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in  
21 laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of  
22 scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of  
23 humanity; and

1           WHEREAS, Since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has  
2 consistently supplied its voice and vision to the struggle of  
3 African-Americans, people of color, and issues of civil rights  
4 around the world; and

5           WHEREAS, The aims of Alpha Phi Alpha are manly deeds,  
6 scholarship, and love for all mankind; and

7           WHEREAS, The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop  
8 leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, and  
9 provide service and advocacy for communities, as exemplified  
10 through its national programs, which include "Go to High  
11 School, Go to College", which focuses on the educational  
12 achievement of students in elementary, secondary, and  
13 post-secondary schools and has given thousands of dollars in  
14 scholarship funds to deserving students; "Project Alpha",  
15 which teaches teenage pregnancy prevention and sexually  
16 transmitted disease prevention to young males, and its  
17 "Voteless People is a Hopeless People" campaign, a voter  
18 registration and education program, through which thousands of  
19 voters have been educated and registered; Alpha Phi Alpha also  
20 focuses on providing service through its strategic  
21 partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of  
22 America, March of Dimes, the American Heart/American Stroke  
23 Association, and the American Cancer Society; and

1           WHEREAS, For over 108 years, Alpha Phi Alpha has played a  
2           fundamental role in the positive development of the character  
3           and education of more than 200,000 men; and

4           WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni  
5           chapters in the United States of America, the District of  
6           Columbia, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe; this total  
7           includes 141 chapters in the Midwestern Region, including 32 in  
8           Illinois; the Midwestern Region includes the states of  
9           Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan,  
10          Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, West Virginia, Wisconsin,  
11          and Canada; Alpha Phi Alpha's presence started in Illinois,  
12          with the founding of the first college chapter in Illinois, the  
13          Theta Chapter, in 1910, and the first alumni chapter, the Xi  
14          Lambda Chapter, which was founded in 1924, both in Chicago; and

15          WHEREAS, Members of Alpha Phi Alpha include many noteworthy  
16          leaders in the areas of government, business, entertainment,  
17          science, and higher education, including the likes of Dr.  
18          Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John  
19          Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew  
20          Young, and Cornel West; its membership also includes federal,  
21          State, and local elected officials, including U.S.  
22          Representative Danny K. Davis, former U.S. Senator Edward  
23          Brooke, former U.S. Senator Roland Burris, former Cook County

1 Board Presidents John and Todd Stroger, and former Mayor of  
2 Chicago Eugene Sawyer, among countless others who have long  
3 stood at the forefront of the fight for civil and human rights  
4 and social change for all Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in the  
6 Illinois General Assembly, including the following members of  
7 the 99th General Assembly: Senator Donne E. Trotter and  
8 Representatives Al Riley, Arthur Turner, Jr., Emanuel "Chris"  
9 Welch, and Elgie R. Sims, Jr., who also serves as the 26th Vice  
10 President of the Midwestern Region; and

11 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of  
12 its members, who, in turn, provide service and advocacy for the  
13 communities they serve with a commitment to service and the  
14 uplifting of humanity; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 recognize and honor the 2015 Alpha Phi Alpha Day held at the  
18 Illinois State Capitol and welcome the members of Alpha Phi  
19 Alpha to the Capitol; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of April 23, 2015 as  
21 Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha  
22 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and its continued service

1 and impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 delivered to Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Esq., Midwestern Regional Vice  
4 President; Jameson S. Taylor, Assistant Regional Vice  
5 President; the Illinois District Director and the Assistant  
6 Illinois District Director; and the Presidents of the 32  
7 College and Alumni Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,  
8 Incorporated, located in the District of Illinois.